

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6864

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 1634

FOR CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, IC
SUBJECT: FY-77 MULTI-REGIONAL RADIO PROJECT, SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY:

REF STATE 285252

1. EMBASSY NOMINATES KARI JONASSON, PRODUCER, NEWS EDITOR (DOMESTIC NEWS), NEWS FEATURE WRITER FOR ICELANDIC STATE RADIO, AND FORMER ACTING DEPUTY EDITOR OF ONE OF ICELAND'S NATIONAL DAILIES, FOR SYRACUSE MULTI-REGIONAL RADIO PROJECT.
2. PROGRAM AND NOMINEE APPEAR EXCEPTIONALLY MATCHED. JONASSON, WHO HAD 10 YEARS NEWSPAPER AND PUBLIC RELATIONS EXPERIENCE BEFORE COMING TO STATE RADIO IN 1973, IS CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REPORTERS ASSOCIATION. HE PRODUCES WEEKLY PARLIAMENTARY RADIO PROGRAM. HE ALSO CO-ANCHORS WEEKLY POLITICAL PHONE-IN WHERE GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, OTHER OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL LEADERS ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY. HE REGULARLY EDITS NEWS MAGAZINE FEATURES ON RADIO. A MEMBER OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, JONASSON'S POLITICAL REPORTING ON RADIO HAS BEEN PRAISED BY MEMBERS OF ALL PARTIES FOR OBJECTIVITY AND BALANCE. IN A DISCUSSION WITH THE PAO, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ICELANDIC STATE RADIO AND TV GAVE A VERY FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF JONASSON. HE HAS AN UNDOUBTED FUTURE IN RADIO. HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE MULTI-REGIONAL RADIO PROJECT WOULD ADMIRABLY SUPPORT CUR PROGRAM OBJECTIVE NO 1.

3. A CITIZEN OF ICELAND, JONASSON WAS BORN IN REYKJAVIK
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FEBRUARY 11, 1940. A GRADUATE OF THE CO-OP COMMERCIAL

SCHOOL, HE BEGAN A JOURNALISTIC CAREER IN 1963 AS A REPORTER FOR TIMINN, WHERE HE ROSE TO ACTING NEWS EDITOR. A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF JOURNALISTS UNION, HE IS ALSO A STRINGER FOR UPI. HE HAS TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN WESTERN EUROPE; MADE 10-DAY VISIT TO THE US IN MARCH, 1969 UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF ATLANTIC YOUTH ASSOCIATION; AND PARTICIPATED IN OPERATIONAL SAIL IN JULY, 1976 IN NEW YORK CITY (ICELANDIC BICENTENNIAL CONTRIBUTION). NAME CHECK IS SATISFACTORY.

4. BECAUSE OF REASONS SPELLED OUT IN RANTANEN-BISHOP TELECON OF DECEMBER 13, 1976, NO ALTERNATE IS NAMED.

5. APPROVAL FOR JONASSON'S PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE STATE RADIO HIERARCHY, INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR GENERAL.
BLAKE

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NNN

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